

Town of Riverdale Park
Board of Elections Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2023

In Attendance

Sarah Zolad, Chief Election Judge
Kate Kelly, Deputy Chief Election Judge
Heather Cronk, Board of Elections member
Patti Doyen, Board of Elections member
Michael Lynch, Board of Elections member

Jessica Barnes, Director of Administrative Services

Absent

Jahera Otieno, Board of Elections member

Call to Order

Ms. Zolad called the Board of Elections Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Introductions

Ms. Zolad introduced herself and stated that she had been involved in the last five Town Elections. Ms. Zolad discussed her professional background and stated that she had lived in Riverdale Park for 15 years. Ms. Zolad stated that she was excited to have an official Board of Elections and she looked forward to working on voter outreach and education. Ms. Zolad discussed her experiences during the most recent Town Election.

Ms. Kelly introduced herself and stated that she had lived in Riverdale Park since 1985. Ms. Kelly stated that she been involved in several Town Elections over the years.

Mr. Lynch stated that he was the member of the BOE to represent the youth in the community however he recently turned 18 years old, so he needed to resign based on the requirements of the Town Charter. Mr. Lynch stated that he was still interested in assisting the BOE in any capacity possible. Mr. Lynch stated that he was interested in getting youth involved and recently worked at precinct in Upper Marlboro during the General Election.

Ms. Cronk introduced herself and stated that she had lived in Riverdale Park since 2009. Ms. Cronk stated that she had served as election judge in recent years and had recused herself during the recent Special Election to assist a candidate. Ms. Cronk stated that she wanted to ensure a free and fair election that was as accessible as possible.

Ms. Doyen stated that she moved to Riverdale Park eleven years ago and was new to elections. Ms. Doyen stated that she was the treasurer and board member for Riverdale Park Arts. Ms. Doyen stated that she was happy to be part of the BOE.

Director Barnes introduced herself and stated that she was proud to work with the BOE and Election Judges. Director Barnes thanked the BOE members for their service.

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Cronk made a motion to approve the February 23, 2023, meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Doyen. Vote: All in favor

Discussion:

There were no changes to the agenda or stated conflicts of interest.

Discussion Items

Dropbox Folder for BOE

Director Barnes provided an overview of the materials included in the Dropbox folder.

Director Barnes stated that she wanted to include the Absentee (Mail-in) Ballot application and Election Notice in the March edition of the *Town Crier*. There were no objections.

Ms. Zolad asked if there were any members of the BOE who had not voted in a Town Election and all BOE members indicated that they had voted in a Town Election.

Director Barnes discussed the impact of redistricting on the Town Election. Ms. Cronk asked if the new wards were on the Town's website and Director Barnes replied that they were posted under the redistricting tab.

Director Barnes discussed the changes to the Financial Disclosure Statements and Ms. Zolad noted that the Ethics Commission, not the BOE, would review the Financial Disclosure Statements submitted by candidates.

Director Barnes discussed the legislation that established the BOE and the role of the BOE.

Director Barnes noted that the new ward boundary map would also be included in the March edition of the *Town Crier*.

Ms. Zolad discussed the BOE's responsibilities related to the upcoming Town Election.

Ms. Kelly discussed the redistricting process and the rules related to redistricting.

Ms. Kelly discussed the training session for Election Judges (prior to Election Day) and the need for a question and answer session before the candidate filing deadline. Ms. Zolad agreed that a question-and-answer session was a good idea.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to hold an informational meeting for potential candidates and voters. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zolad. Vote: All in favor

Director Barnes discussed the Town Charter, Town Code, and Election Manual as governing documents for Town Elections and requested that the BOE members review each of them carefully. Director Barnes discussed the need to revise and update the Election Manual in the future.

Ms. Cronk asked about paid advertising and Director Barnes discussed the Town Election budget.

Director Barnes discussed outreach to Crescent Cities Center.

Ms. Zolad stated that she was excited to plan for the next election and to focus on voter education and outreach efforts.

Ms. Zolad stated that BOE members could reach out to her or Ms. Kelly to add items to a BOE meeting agenda.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the BOE was scheduled for March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm